

Child Protection Policy Addendum During COVID-19

5th JANUARY 2021

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 virus it is necessary that all schools are prepared and have appropriate arrangements in place in relation to the management of any safeguarding or child protection concerns both on and off site during this time. Therefore, we have produced this addendum to our existing school's Child Protection Policy to ensure all staff, Governors and Parents understand our protocols for managing child protection concerns during this time.

DSL (and deputy) arrangements

- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead remains the same during this time.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs. Mary Okenwa** and may be contacted on **07960130132**; m.okenwa@kkcs.org.uk
- The Designated Safeguarding Deputy is **Mrs. Joy Uguoko** and may be contacted on **07944898157**; cherish4joy@hotmail.com

What staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a child

- As always, our school's duty of care is to keep children safe and while the arrangements of the physical care of children and physical presence of our Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy may be different during this time the school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.
- It is important that all staff and volunteers act immediately on any safeguarding concerns

What staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children

- The school's response remains the same and follows the guidelines as set out in our school's Child Protection Policy.
- The principles in part 4 of KCSIE will continue to support how our school responds to any such concerns.
- any arrangements to support children the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition

Arrangements to keep children not physically attending the school safe

Where children are not physically attending school, Kings Kids Christian School will consider the safety of our children when they are asked to work online. The starting point for online teaching remains the same as the principles set out in our school's staff code of conduct. This policy includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communication including the use of social media. This policy applies equally to any existing or new online and distance learning arrangements which have been introduced. The principles set out in the guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings published by the Safer Recruitment Consortium alongside with the COVID addendum to this

guidance should be adhered to by all staff. Any online learning tools or systems recommended for use by Kings Kids Christian School, are in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements. Our Computing Lead continues to work with children, staff and parents to promote online safety. Our school will also be in contact with parents and carers during this time. Communication with parents will reinforce the importance of children being safe online. Families will be made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who their child is going to be interacting with online, including members of staff from our school. Kings Kids Christian School acknowledges that some parents and carers may choose to supplement the school's online offer with support from online companies and in some cases, individual tutors. We will raise awareness with parents the importance of only accessing online support from a reputable organisation or individual who can provide evidence that they are a safe organisation and can be trusted to have access to children. We will signpost parents to support such as [Internet matters](#), [London Grid for Learning](#), [Net-aware](#), [Parent info](#), [Thinkuknow](#) and [the UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

Online Risks

- Our guidance on Online e-Safety Policy remains the same

Peer On Peer Abuse

- Given the very different circumstances we are operating under, we have revised our process as follows: (the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE should continue to inform any revised approach)
 - managing any report of such abuse
 - supporting victims

OR

- Our guidance on Peer-on-Peer abuse within our Child Protection Policy remains the same

Vulnerable Children - Looked-after and previously looked-after children

- School staff will continue to work with and support children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children

Updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health, and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

The whole approach throughout the EHC needs assessment process should be person-centred and the child and young people and their families are supported and encouraged to be involved at every step.

If a professional believes that an EHC needs assessment is necessary, then a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting must be arranged by your child's educational setting. The TAC meeting is an information sharing meeting that brings together the child, the parents and relevant professionals in a supportive environment. You and your child (taking into account age and understanding) will be fully involved and central to decision-making. In this meeting the focus

will be on identifying and reviewing how support can be given to your child and arranging any additional referrals if required, for example, for health, education or care needs.

If you want to know more about the process or want support through the process you contact Lewisham's Special Educational Needs & Disability Advice Information Service, by e-mail on Lewisham@kids.org.uk or telephone 0203 319 2163.

Further information is available on the Lewisham Local Offer website: <http://www.lewishamlocaloffer.org.uk/#/>

Attendance

See also our Attendance COVID-19 Addendum

The school will:

- Complete the register of attendance daily
- Contact parents (text/telephone call) if a child who is expected to be in school does not attend and school is not notified. (First Day Contact Policy)
- Explore reasons for non-attendance and address barriers to attendance with them as appropriate.
- Contact parents to identify those children who fall into either the 'clinically vulnerable' group or the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' group or who live with someone in either of these categories. This information will be recorded in a 'Vulnerable Group' register.
- Carry out regular 'safe and well' checks with children considered to be 'vulnerable' at least weekly
- Children who have displayed symptoms must stay away from school for 7 days or until they are well (if longer) or until a negative COVID-19 test is received.
- If a member of their household displays symptoms (or receives a positive COVID-19 test) they should self-isolate for 10 days. Should the household member receive a negative test result, the child may return to school.
- Should a confirmed or strongly suspected case of COVID occur in school, all staff and children within the associated 'bubble' will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 10 days (or until a negative COVID-19 test is received).
- Children and staff are eligible for a COVID-19 test and a test should be arranged should any symptoms be shown and following advice from NHS 111.

However, individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

Policy Adopted by Governors on: 30/09/2021

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Policy Due for Review on: 30/09/2022